



The 12th Edition

Volume 5, Issue 3

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, March 14, 2003

News Briefs

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is **March 28 at 2 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Desert Oasis Enlisted Club.**

Honorees need to be in place by 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

Volunteers Needed

Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is in need of volunteer sober drivers for "Aerospace and Arizona Days" March 27-29.

For more information or to volunteer contact AIC Nicholas Samaras at 228-3201.

Sending Packages to Deployed Troops

The American Red Cross has government approval to send packages to deployed military members.

Care packages and letters are sent to Red Cross personnel in the field who distribute the items.

Nothing can be pre-wrapped or packaged as it will have to be inspected. Packaging and shipping costs must be paid up-front.

For more information contact Pam Mathewson at 318-6868. Please call before arriving with packages.

Twelfth Air Force OPY '02 Winners

By 1st Lt Sarah Schwenesen
612th Theater Operations Group

On Friday, Mar. 7, 12th Air Force recognized the 2002 Outstanding Performers of the Year from all seven wings and headquarters 12 AF at a banquet held at the Westward Look Hotel.

The overall 12 AF winners were announced at the banquet, and in an unprecedented turn of events, two civilians tied for the outstanding civilian of the year award.

"Our outstanding performers have worked extremely hard and deserve this recognition for their accomplishments. I am proud of the exceptional performance that 12 AF personnel show in their duties and dedication to the mission," said Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins. "Congratulations to every base OPY winner, and to the winners for 12 AF."

The base-level OPY winners were treated to three days of activities in recognition of their achievements. On Mar. 6, all attendees, their commanders, and command chiefs attended an icebreaker at headquarters 12 AF, hosted by Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins and his wife, Robbin.

The base winners also went for tours of Kartchner Caverns and Old Tucson on Thursday. The final day provided everyone with some personal time to see Tucson or relax at the hotel before the evening's festivities.

Friday evening featured a medallion ceremony and a reception hosted by Brig. Gen. Scott Gray and his wife, Jackie. At the awards banquet, CMSAF (ret.) Robert D. Gaylor gave a motivational speech and the United States Air Force Band of the Rockies put on a show.

"This experience was absolutely first-class! I have had a whole lot of fun and met so many interesting people," remarked Capt Deedra Zabokrtsky, CGO of the year from the 7th Bomb Wing.

The fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Robert D. Gaylor, speaks to the OPY winners at the banquet, Friday night.

Photo by TSgt Marlin Zimmerman



Photo by Capt Karin McWhorter

Lt Gen William T. Hobbins presents a 12th AF Medallion to SMSgt Christopher E. Leh from Dyess AFB, while Mrs Hobbins and Chief Coleman look on.

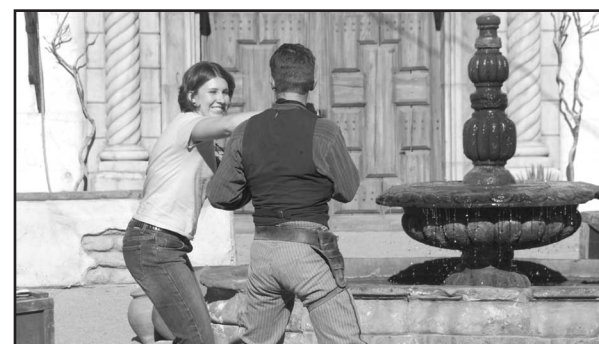


Photo by TSgt James Steele

A1C Lindsey Peterson, Ellsworth AFB, learns to throw a "movie punch" at Old Tucson Studios.

2002 12th AF Outstanding Performers of the Year

Airman	NCO	SNCO	First Sergeant	Civilians	CGO
SrA Robert S. Kneberg Hill AFB	MSgt Bryan M. Hencke Ellsworth AFB	MSgt Dale L. Wilson DMAFB	MSgt Scott A. Martin Tinker AFB	Mr. George L. Anderson Holloman AFB	Mr. Gary E. Zoelzer Cannon AFB
					Capt Aaron M. Rigdon Mt Home AFB

Around the AOR...



photos courtesy of 478th EOS, Manta FOL



MANTA - (left) The commissary run by the Ecuadorian Air Force and (above), the joint mass accident response exercise. The MARE included USAF and FAE personnel and equipment and two hundred participants.

Staff Sergeant Deric Harris, 820th "Red Horse" Engineers, Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada shoots an azimuth during site preparation for a day care center that is being constructed in the town of Sandy Point on the small West Indies island Saint Christopher, commonly called Saint Kitts. The construction, which is part of the USSOUTHAF sponsored Exercise New Horizons 03, is a joint field training exercise between U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army National Guard, U.S. Marines and the St. Kitts-Nevis Defense Force.



photo by MSG Melinda Early, 131st Mobile Public Affairs Division, Ala. Army National Guard



*The
12th Edition*



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SALUTE! Deployment Brings Marine Home

Congratulations to the March promotees from 12th AF and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments.

Airman 1st Class

Erin N. Corbett, 25 OWS

Senior Airman

Mark Frank, 25 OWS
Joseph Gearing, 612 COS
Justin Pruitt, 612 ACOMS
James Watson, 612 AIS

Staff Sgt

Michael Cole, 25 OWS
Benjamin Leon, 612 ACOMS
Donald Morgan, 25 OWS
Robert Verdugo, 612 ACOMS

Technical Sgt

Henry Barr, 612 ACOMS
Marc Demotta, 612 ACOMS

Major

Robert Burton, 12 AF/JA
Brian Buck, 612 ACOMS

Joint Service Achievement Medal

TSgt Craig Brown, 612 COS

By Capt Larry McDonald
New Horizons Public Affairs

SAINT KITTS – Joining the United States military can cause one to be deployed to various locations. These locations may require the service member to be relocated overseas or even to a foreign land with a different language and culture, but for this United States Marine being deployed means coming home.

United States Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Craig James, of the 273rd Marine Wing Support Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C. is a native of the small island of Saint Kitts-Nevis, located in the West Indies.

James, the sixth of eight children, moved from Saint Kitts to Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where the Puerto Rico recruiter recruited him. James heard lots of good thing about the Marine Corps, the challenge, the excitement and teamwork, which ultimately was the driving force behind his enlistment. "It was something that I wanted to do," said James.

James a two-year veteran of the Marines Corps, said he is grateful and thankful for the opportunity to be back home. The deployment came by way of surprise for James. "I overheard one of my fellow

marines talking about a humanitarian mission in Saint Kitts and I said I'm from Saint Kitts," stated James.

James recalled the emotion of his family as he returned home. "I told my sister to meet me at the airport," James said. "My mother had no idea that I was home, and when she saw me walk through the door she was almost in tears."

The mission of Joint Task Force Brimstone Hill, New Horizons 2003 is to provide humanitarian assistance to the Island of Saint Kitts-Nevis. Their primary focus is to build a medical facility, day care center and provide medical training for host nation medical personnel. This deployment is extremely special to James and his family. As James posted guard security at the U.S. construction site daycare center at Sandy Point, he could hardly hold back his emotion as he explained why this deployment meant so much to him. "I was born less than one hundred yard across the street from the construction site of the daycare center and had my yearly

medical exam next door," James said.

As one fellow marine stated, who can better assist the U.S. military and the people of Saint Kitts-Nevis on a humanitarian mission more proudly than a U.S. Marine, citizen from Saint Kitts. After James' military obligation, he plans to pursue a career in acting.



photo by MSG Melinda Early
Lance Corporal Craig James,
USMC, at home in St Kitts.

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In addition to being available at the air show, Tucson residents will be able to obtain the air show guide several days prior to the two-day event! Plus, this special edition will also be inserted into the Desert Airman, official base newspaper for Davis-Monthan AFB.

"Centennial of Flight"

D-M officials expect thousands of eyes to look to the Tucson skies March 29-30 for Aerospace & Arizona Days 2003.

The two-day air show will feature numerous military and civilian aerial demonstrations and one of the largest displays of static aircraft from across the United States. This year's feature demonstration will be the USAF Aerial Demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Several demonstration aircraft from the Air Force, Navy, Army, and Marines are expected.

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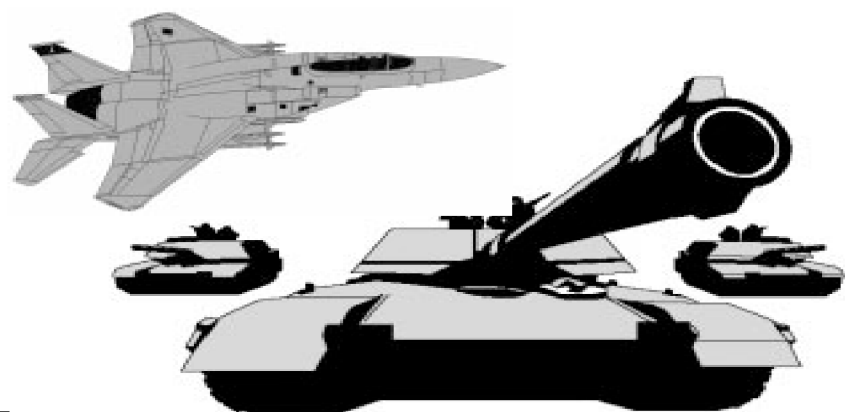
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456 EAST AVE. K-4 SUITE 8
LANCASTER, CA 93535
TOLL FREE PHONE: (877) 247-9288
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PHOENIX OFFICE
8607 N. 59TH AVE.,
SUITE C-3,
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2700 E. FRY BLVD.,
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